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He was appointed, in York county, Va., guardian of Ann Evans, orphan of John Evans, deceased, July 24, 1689. Bond, 3,000 lbs. of sweet-scented tobacco in cask. (York Records, Vol. VIII, p. 300.)

He is recorded as witness in suits from time to time until his death, in 1706. He died without heir. Elizabeth Bloxton reported to the court that he had died at her home, and she was appointed executrix, January 24, 1707. At the time of his death he was in evident reduced circumstances, and in the inventory the chief items were a fishing boat and a pair leather breeches.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

THE POINDEXTER FAMILY.

NOTES FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RECORDS.

The first of the Poindexter family in Virginia was George Poindexter who, in the Seventeenth century, settled at the Middle Plantation, now Williamsburg. He was a merchant, part owner of ships and a planter. The entire destruction of the records of New Kent and James City counties and the almost entire destruction of those of Hanover, have precluded the preparation of a connected genealogy of the family, but it has been thought that it would be well to gather the various appearances of records relating to the family in several county records and also some data preserved in private hands. Members of the family, prior to the Revolution, had settled in half a dozen different counties in Virginia and the name is now represented by descendants throughout the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

The family, the original form of whose name is Poingdestre, is an ancient gentle line in the Island of Jersey. Fortunately the pedigree preserved there includes the name of George Poingdestre or Poindexter and states that he settled in Virginia. This pedigree is contained in a work entitled *An Armorial of Jersey, Being an Account, Heraldic and Antiquarian of its Chief Native Families*. The account is as follows:

POINGDESTRE.

Arms (used by present families in Jersey): *Per fesse argent and or; in chief a dexter hand, clenched, ppr., cuffed of the second; in base a mullet of the first.* Crest: *An esquire's helmet ppr.*

Two mottoes are used by different branches of the family, one: *Nemo me impune lacessit*, and the other: *Dextra fidei pignus*.

In the *Armorial*, the chart pedigrees are introduced by the following account:

As early as 1250 Geoffrey and Raoul Poingdestre are mentioned as landowners in Jersey, in certain documents preserved in the archives at S. Lo, in Normandy.

In 1424, John Poingdestre was Bailly of the Island; in 1452 his son, another John, filled the same office;* and in 1467 the grandson of the first-named, a third John, occupied this honourable post. In 1485, John Poingdestre was Lieutenant-Bailly, as was his descendant, still named John, in 1669.

This family has, for several generations, possessed the fief of Grainville, in the parish of S. Saviour; and it has always held a high social position in its native island.

One of its eminent members was John Poingdestre, son of Edward, who was born in 1609. He became fellow of Exeter College, Oxford, and was one of the first who partook of the benefit, after their foundation, of the Jersey scholarships. He appears to have possessed every quality calculated to adorn public and private life, and these he exercised in the sphere of his eventful career. He was esteemed one of the soundest Grecians of his day, in the penmanship of which language he was an elegant adept. He prepared, for private use, emendations of the text of several Greek poets, which still exist in MS. He held an official appointment, the nature of which has been forgotten, under Lord Digby, Secretary of State to Charles I. He was ejected from his fellowship by the Parliamentary visitors, when retired to Jersey, and was with Sir Philip de Carteret in Elizabeth Castle during its siege by the Republicans. He had the honour of being deputed by Sir George Carteret to proceed to France, there to confer with Charles II on the state of affairs in Jersey.

After the ultimate expulsion of the Royalists from the island, he went into voluntary exile, as an earnest of his loyalty, until the Restoration, when he was rewarded by the office of Lieutenant-Bailly, under Sir Edward de Carteret, in 1669. After some years he retired from this

*Mr. Mark-Anthony Lower, in his "Patronymica Britannica," quotes as to the signification of this surname, a passage from Talbot's "English Etymologies," under the head of *Poindexter*. "This name does not signify *the right hand*, as might easily be imagined, but is an old Norman name, signifying *Spur the Steed*, and analogous to *Hotspur*."

"It comes from two old words which Wace often uses in the 'Roman de Rou,' the first meaning *to spur*, from the Latin *pungo*, the second a *steed* or *courser*, in French *destrier*; Italian *destriere*." This reasoning, however ingenious, is quite erroneous, for as will be seen by the annexed [in original] engraving of the seal of John Poingdestre, Bailly of Jersey in 1452, the same arms are *parlantes*, and represent the dexter fist. By this seal it would appear that a fesse formed originally one of the charges of the shield. On the outer wall of a house at Montau-Pretre, formally possessed by a branch of the family, another coat of arms is sculptured in bold relief, viz: on a fesse, between three roses —, a mullet; crest: a dexter hand, clenched.

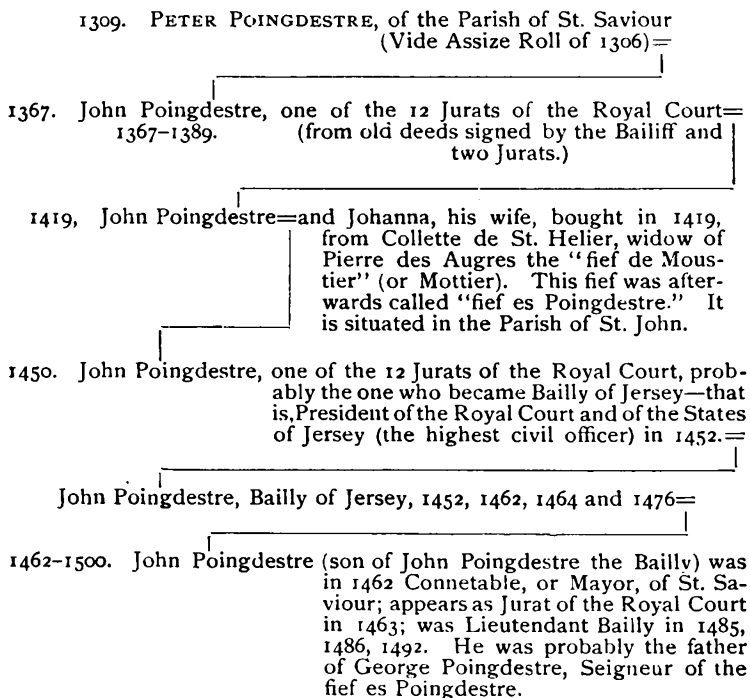
appointment owing to an alleged informality, but he retained his seat as Jurat until his death.

Among many other works in manuscript, Mr. Poingdestre left the framework of Falle's "History of Jersey," a copy of which, in the author's writing, was presented to James II and is now in the Harleian collection. He also wrote a series of articles, not as well known, on the *Grand Coustumier de Normandie*, showing the variation of the Jersey laws from those of the parent Duchy. This was a subject of which the author was a perfect master and which rendered his judicial decisions models of justice and impartiality.

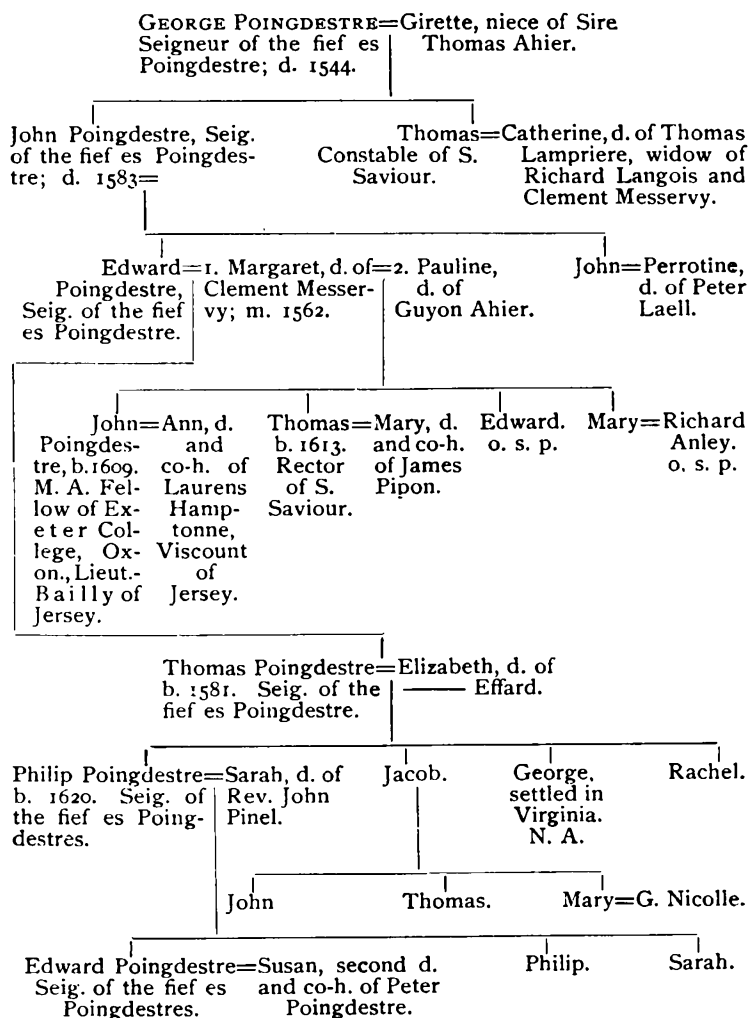
He was buried in the Church of S. Saviour, where a Latin epitaph penned by Falle, exists to his memory. His portrait is still preserved at Grainville.

For five successive generations the head of this family sat as Jurat of the Royal Court of the Island, the last of whom died in 1831.

The eldest branch of the family is represented by Edward Gibbs Poingdestre, Esq., of Grainville Manor, and a junior branch by the Rev. George Poingdestre of S. Anastasius.



PEDIGREE OF POINGDESTRE, OF GRAINVILLE.



(TO BE CONTINUED.)